

# THE POETS IN PICARDY

PR6007  
E69P6  
c.2

E. DE STEIN



*Ex Libris*  
H. R. Stuart Maynard

LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA  
RIVERSIDE



Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2008 with funding from  
Microsoft Corporation

<http://www.archive.org/details/poetsinpicardy00dest>



THE POETS IN PICARDY  
AND OTHER POEMS



# THE POETS IN PICARDY

AND OTHER POEMS

BY E. DE STEIN

xxv

LONDON

JOHN MURRAY, ALBEMARLE STREET, W.

1919

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

TO  
MY MOTHER



## P R E F A C E

THE rhymes contained in this volume were all jotted down in France during 1916, 1917, and 1918, either in the trenches, in billets, or in the more dignified purlieus of staff offices.

Any merit that may be found in them is due to the influence of that wonderful spirit of light-heartedness, that perpetual sense of the ridiculous which, even under the most appalling conditions, never seemed to desert the men with whom I was privileged to serve and which indeed seemed to flourish more freely in the mud and rain of the front-line trenches than in the comparative comfort of billets or "cushy jobs," so that one was almost tempted to consider "humour" with Asper—

"To be a quality of air and water!"

I desire to thank the Editors of *The Times*, *Punch*, and *The Bystander* for permission to reprint a few of the poems included in this collection.

E. DE S.



## CONTENTS

	<small>PAGE</small>
PREFACE . . . . .	II
DEDICATION: TO A SKYLARK SINGING BEHIND OUR TRENCHES . . . . .	15

### THE POETS IN PICARDY

FRAGMENT OF A SHAKESPEAREAN TRAGEDY: THE STEW . . . . .	19
FRAGMENT FROM THE EDDA: A LAY OF SIDNI THE STOR- MAN . . . . .	25
FRAGMENT OF A GREEK TRAGEDY . . . . .	29
FRAGMENT FROM THE "MODERN ILIAD," BY THE OFFICIAL BARD . . . . .	32
JEANETTE, BY PRIVATE WORDSWORTH . . . . .	36
MINNIE, BY PRIVATE ROBERT BURNS . . . . .	39
SERGEANT SWINBURNE GETS SHELL SHOCK . . . . .	41
RANK AND FILE, OR REVOLUTION À LA MODE, by PRIVATE W. S. GILBERT . . . . .	43

	PAGE
OTHER POEMS	
CHLOE: THE AWFUL EFFECT OF FOUR YEARS' ACTIVE SERVICE ON A POET, BY A POET ON THE STAFF . . . . .	55
ODE TO SPRING, BY A CONSCRIPTED POET . . . . .	57
ODE TO SIMPLICITY, BY A RATIONED POET . . . . .	59
A LULLABY, BY A POET ON SENTRY DUTY . . . . .	61
IN LACRIMAS, BY A GASSED POET . . . . .	63
STINKING FARM, BY A PICARDY POET OF THE FUTURE . . . . .	65
ELEGY ON THE DEATH OF BINGO, OUR TRENCH DOG, BY THE TRENCH BARD . . . . .	67
MUD . . . . .	69
THE SACRED DOCUMENTS . . . . .	71
JOSEPH ARTHUR BROWN . . . . .	74
THE CALL OF THE WILD . . . . .	77
THE TURN OF THE TIDE . . . . .	79
FRAGMENT . . . . .	81
HAPPINESS . . . . .	82
ODE . . . . .	83
ODE: WITH COMPLIMENTS TO CAPTAIN BRUCE BAIRNS- FATHER . . . . .	84
PHILOSOPHY FOR ADVERTISERS . . . . .	85
TO A SMALL BOY . . . . .	88
"MUFTI" . . . . .	89
ENVOIE . . . . .	91

DEDICATION

TO

A SKYLARK SINGING BEHIND OUR TRENCHES

THOU little voice, thou happy sprite,  
How didst thou gain the air and light  
That sing'st so merrily ?  
How could such little wings  
Give thee thy freedom from these dense  
And fetid tombs—these burrows whence  
We peer like frightened things ?  
In the free sky.  
Thou sail'st while here we crawl and creep  
And fight and sleep  
And die.  
How canst thou sing while Nature lies  
Bleeding and torn beneath thine eyes,  
And the foul breath  
Of rank decay hangs like a shroud  
Over the fields the shell hath ploughed ?  
How canst thou sing so gay and glad  
While all the heavens are filled with death  
And all the world is mad ?  
Yet sing—for at thy song  
The torn trees stand up straight and strong  
And stretch their twisted arms ;  
And smoke ascends from pleasant farms,  
And the shy flowers their odours give.  
Once more the riven pastures smile  
And for a while  
We live.



*THE POETS IN PICARDY*



## FRAGMENT OF A SHAKESPEAREAN TRAGEDY

"There are many things with which a stew can be thickened."

(Extract from *Regimental Orders*.)

### SCENE I. *Battalion Orderly Room.*

*Flourish.* Enter COLONEL and ADJUTANT.

COLONEL. I do mistrust the soft and temperate air  
That has so long enwrapped us. No "Returns  
Of Bakers," Visitations of the Staff,  
Alarms or inquisitions have disturbed  
Our ten days' rest. Nothing but casual shells  
And aerial bombs, to mind us of the War.

ADJUTANT. Oh ! Sir, thy zeal has mated with thy conscience  
And bred i' the mind mistrustful doubts and fears—  
A savage brood, which being come to manhood  
Do fight with sweet content and eat her up.

COLONEL. Alas ! It is the part of those who govern  
To play the miser with their present good  
For fear of future ill. But who comes here ?

*Enter MESSENGER.*

MESSENGER. So please you I am sent of General Blood  
To bid you wait his coming.

COLONEL.

When ?

MESSENGER.

To-morrow

He purposes to visit your command

About the dinner hour.

Exit.

COLONEL.

Now let the occasion

Be servant to my wits. "The dinner hour" . . .

Twice hath he come ; and first upon parade

Inspected all my men ; the second time

The transport visited. Surmise hath grown  
To certainty. He will inspect the dinners !

Go, faithful Adjutant—stir up the cooks

And bid them thicken stews and burnish pots.

ADJUTANT. I take my leave and go.

Exit.

COLONEL.

Anon, anon.

Now with elusive Chance I'll try a fall

And on the fateful issue risk my all.

Flourish. Exit.

SCENE II. *A Kitchen. In the middle a dixie.*

Thunder. Enter THREE COOKS.

1<sup>ST</sup> COOK. Thrice the dreaded message came.2<sup>ND</sup> COOK. Thrice the mystic buzzer buzzed.3<sup>RD</sup> COOK. Sergeant cries 'tis time, 'tis time.1<sup>ST</sup> COOK. Round about the dixie go,

In the dense ingredients throw.

Extra bully, every lump  
Pinched from some forbidden dump.  
Biscuits crunched to look like flour,  
Cabbage sweet and onions sour,  
Make the broth as thick as glue.  
The General will inspect the stew

ALL. Fire burn and dixie bubble  
Double toil or there'll be trouble.

2ND COOK. 'Taters in the cauldron sink  
Peeled by hands as black as ink,  
Portions of a slaughtered cat,  
Piece of breakfast bacon fat,  
Bits of boot and bits of stick  
Make the gruel slab and thick.

ALL. Fire burn and dixie bubble  
Double toil or there'll be trouble.

3RD COOK. German sausage won in fight  
On some dark and stormy night,  
Dim and murky watercress  
Stolen from a sergeants' mess,  
Slabs of cheese and chunks of ham,  
Lumps of plum and apple jam,  
Bits of paper, ends of string  
Mixed with any damnèd thing  
In the cauldron mingle quick,  
So the stew be dense and thick.

ALL. Fire burn and dixie bubble  
Double toil or there'll be trouble.

*Exeunt.*

SCENE III. *Outside Kitchen. Alarums.*

*Enter ORDERLY CORPORAL.*

Here's a pretty pass ! Eye-wash, eye-wash, eye-wash ! And such a running to and fro and a go this way and a go that way, and a burnishing up of old brass and a shouting of horrid words as though the devil himself were inspecting his own furnace ! Faith ! an I were eye-washing Beelzebub I could catch it no hotter. Eye-wash ! Marry a pretty word, that sees not its own foolishness and is as unclean as a captured Bosch. Eye-wash—that makes the strong man tremble and the weak man bold—that cleans even the hands of a cook !

*Shouting within.*

Anon, anon, I will eye-wash it no further.

*Exit.*

*Flourish. Enter COLONEL, ADJUTANT, QUARTERMASTER,  
and SERGEANT-COOK.*

COLONEL. Is all prepared ?  
SERGEANT-COOK.  
Rhondda himself.  
QUARTERMASTER.

The dinners would content  
The General comes.

*Flourish. Enter GENERAL and ATTENDANTS.*

GENERAL.

Our greetings are the warmer for the thought  
Of visits past.

COLONEL.

The service that we owe  
In doing it pays itself. Will you inspect  
The dinners?

GENERAL.

First we'll greet the Adjutant  
Whom well we recollect.

ADJUTANT.

This is an honour  
Which makes our labours light. Will you be pleased  
To inspect the dinners?

GENERAL.

Yes. But let us first  
Discuss the present welfare of the troops  
Whose good's our care.

SERGEANT-COOK *to COLONEL.*

The time is getting long,  
The stew's congealing fast!

COLONEL.

Good General,  
Your grace toward our people doth confound  
Th' expression of our gratitude. The hour  
For dinner is at hand. An you would grace  
The issue with your presence it would make  
The meal the sweeter.

GENERAL *(aside).*

There doth seem to be  
More than politeness in these invitations.

*to COLONEL.* I am no cook, to judge by sight and touch  
The flavour of a dish. Issue the dinners

To all the rank and file, that so my pleasure  
In marking their expression of content  
Be equal to the praise I shall bestow.

VOICE WITHIN. Help ! Help ! The cooks have fainted in the  
stew !

ADJUTANT. They'll not be noticed.

COLONEL. Now hath fortune proved  
My master. I'll not live a slave to Chance.  
(*Eats some of the stew and dies.*)

GENERAL. Conscience hath claimed her toll and is content.  
We'll go inspect another regiment.

*Curtain.*

## FRAGMENT FROM THE EDDA

### A LAY OF SIDNI THE STOR-MAN

At the downcome of darkness  
Up to the trenches  
Fared he forth  
Sidni the Stor-man.  
On bent back  
Bore he the Rum Jar,  
Bringing a boon  
To the Folk in the Front Line.  
Scatheful the sky,  
With no stars shining,  
Monstrous the mud  
That lay deep on the Duck Boards.  
A weary while  
Wandered he on,  
No whit he wotted  
Of fearful fate  
Stalking his steps.  
A weary while  
Wandered he on

## FRAGMENT FROM THE EDDA

Till—fearing—he felt for  
The doubtful Duck Boards  
No longer beneath him.  
Then spake Sidni,  
Steward of Stores,  
“ Now I know  
I have come to the Country  
That men name No MAN’s,”  
And his heart  
Gat heavy within him  
For horror of Hun Folk  
Who crawl in the Craters.  
Then there arose  
Dim in the darkness  
The face and form  
Of Heinrik the Hun  
With hand upheld  
Bearing a bomb.  
And fear gat hold  
Of Sidni the Stor-man.  
With force of fear  
Raising the Rum Jar  
Drave he adrad  
At the face of the foeman  
Down sank the Slayer  
Smitten asunder,  
And over his face

Unloosed ran the liquor.  
Then Heinrik the Hun  
Sang he this Swan Song,  
" Hero I hail thee,  
Godlike who givest  
Fire and Sweetness  
Born of a blow.  
Logi thou art  
Or Wotan the one-eyed  
Coming to call me  
Away to Walhall.  
Happy I haste  
To the hall of the Heroes.  
Point thou the path,  
I come ! I come ! "

But fast with the force  
Of the fear that was in him  
Fled Sidni the Stor-man  
Back to the Britons,  
And came by chance  
Straightway to his section  
Bearing the Rum Jar  
Now lacking the liquor.  
Then puffing with pride  
And the pace of the running,  
Told he a tale

## FRAGMENT FROM THE EDDA

Of the Slaying of Seven,  
But little belief  
In the count of the killing  
Gat Sid from the section,  
Wrathy withal  
At the loss of the liquor.  
And one thing Erb,  
Erb that erstwhile  
Hight his old Pal,  
Had for an answer,  
“Bale hast thou brought  
And rede of Bale  
Have I for thee.”  
Then troth they took  
And oath sware betwixt them  
That for four years full  
Or the War’s duration  
They draw and drink  
Sid’s ration of Rum.  
So doom was decreed  
For the loss of the liquor.  
But Sidni the Stor-man  
Transferred to the Transport.

## FRAGMENT OF A GREEK TRAGEDY

### *DRAMATIS PERSONAE*

A STAFF OFFICER. A HERALD.

A COLONEL. CHORUS OF OFFICERS' SERVANTS

A CAPTAIN. AND ORDERLIES.

SCENE. *Exterior of Battalion Headquarters Dug-out.*

LEADER OF Ho ! friends, a stranger cometh ; by his dress  
CHORUS. Some nobleman of leisure, I should guess ;  
Come, let us seem to labour, lest he strafe ;  
A soldier ever eye-washes the Staff.

*Chorus start work, singing.*

Brighter than the queenly rose,  
Brighter than the setting sun,  
Brighter than old Ginger's nose  
The raiment of the gilded one.  
The red tab points towards each breast  
The red band binds his forehead stern ;  
The rainbow ribbons on his chest  
Proclaim what fires within him burn.  
Upon his throne amid the din  
He sits serene—yet sometimes stoops  
To take a kindly interest in  
The trousers issued to the troops.

*Enter STAFF OFFICER.*

STAFF OFFICER. Ho ! slaves, your Colonel seeking have I come.  
LEADER OF CHOR. This is his house, but he is far from home.

STAFF OFFICER. And whither gone ? Reply without delay.  
LEADER OF CHOR. Ask of the Captain. See, he comes this way.

*Enter CAPTAIN from dug-out.*

CAPTAIN. Immaculate stranger, hail ! What lucky chance  
Has brought you to this dirty bit of France ?

STAFF OFFICER. Not chance. A conscientious Brigadier  
Has sent me hither.

CAPTAIN. And what seek you here ?

STAFF OFFICER. I seek your Colonel.

CAPTAIN. He is up the line.  
'Tis said the foe will soon explode a mine,  
And we must be prepared should he attack.

STAFF OFFICER. I think I will await him coming back.

CAPTAIN. Then chance to me at least has been most kind ;  
Come, let me lead you where a drink you'll find.

(They enter dug-out and are seen relieving their thirst.)

CHORUS. Beyond the distant mountains,  
Where skirted men abide  
And in an uncouth language  
Their skirted children chide ;  
Beyond the land of sunshine,  
Where never skies are blue,  
There lives a silent people  
Who know a thing or two.

All is not gold that glitters,  
And " sirops " are rather sad ;  
All is not Bass that's " bitters,"  
And Gallic beer is bad ;  
But out of the misty regions  
Where loom the mountains tall  
There comes the drink of princes—  
Whisky, the Queen of all.

STAFF OFFICER. This is my seventh drink, and yet, alas !  
The Colonel comes not.

CAPTAIN. Fill another glass.

STAFF OFFICER. I will. (*He does.*) The bottle's finished, I'm  
afraid.

CAPTAIN. It does not matter. I drink lemonade.

LEADER OF CHOR. A doom descends upon this house, I fear ;  
That was the only bottle left us here !

*Enter HERALD.*

HERALD. The Colonel comes. Let no ill-omened word  
Escape the barrier of your teeth. I've heard  
Men say his temper's in an awful state ;  
Therefore beware lest some untoward fate  
Befall you ; and—I do not think I'll wait.

*Enter COLONEL.*

(*He sees empty whisky-bottle, looks at Staff  
Officer, and—*)

[*Remainder of fragment is expurgated.*]

## FRAGMENT FROM THE " MODERN ILIAD "

BY THE OFFICIAL BARD

A.D. 2001. EDITION WITH NOTES AND COMMENTARIES

AND when at last, after long years of war,  
The barbarous host was broken and began  
To turn despairing eyes towards the East,  
And there beheld, breaking above their homes,  
The flaming terror of avenging Dawn,  
The Leader of the British, ere he hurled  
His armies in pursuit, upon the plain  
Of shattered Flanders held a great review,  
And all the earth was dark with moving men.  
And first there passed, with solemn steps and slow  
The legions of the Staff, immaculate,  
Yet with the strained and mazèd look of those  
Who dream at midnight of unnumbered files.<sup>1</sup>  
And in their wake ten thousand learnèd clerks  
Brandishing secret orders fraught with doom.

<sup>1</sup> "An '*unnumbered file*'—the bugbear alike of the staff officer and the platoon commander."—*Piffle*.

About them messengers innumerable  
And printers thronged and signallers who know  
The lairs of buried cables and their pals<sup>1</sup>  
Who play upon the strings invisible  
That span the world. Behind them mystic men  
Who serve the sacred pigeons,<sup>2</sup> and in rear,  
While frantic sergeant-majors called the Gods  
To witness what a "falling out" was there,  
The venerable sages who compose  
The section Meteorological  
Marched and with quavering voices counted time.  
Next came the Engineers, the Railway-men,  
Huge Foresters and Quarry Companies,  
And bargemen dreamy-eyed yet skilled to hurl  
Incredible invective at their foes,  
And Searchlight Sections and wild Alchemists,  
Who dabble smiling in the fumes of Hell.  
And when they passed, after a little space,  
The earth grew black and trembled at the tread  
Of countless regiments of labour-men,  
Garnered from all the corners of the Earth,  
From Fiji and the Indies of the West,  
From Santal and the Provinces of Ind,  
From Burmah and from Southern Africa,

<sup>1</sup> Alternative reading, "the poles which."—*P/unk.*

<sup>2</sup> For the first use of this bird as a messenger see account of the "Flood,"  
cp. "getting the bird."—*Prof. Muddle.*

And motley slant-eyed men from far Cathay,  
And with them marched the older of the sons  
Of Her who is a mother to them all.  
Next came the Healers, doctors, nurses, cooks,  
The Sanitary Sections, Waacs,<sup>1</sup> and Wrens,<sup>2</sup>  
And chariot drivers of the Crimson Cross,  
And in the rear there pranced with horrible cries,  
Wielding strange weapons destined for their friends  
Yet in the last resort a doom for foes—  
The Mobile Dental Units. Many more  
There were that followed, numerous as the sands  
Of peopled Blackpool on Bank Holiday.  
Not all the paper of Northcliffean Mills<sup>3</sup>  
Would be sufficient for the tale of them.  
Nor even were the fighting men<sup>4</sup> forgotten,  
Horse, foot, artillery, and at their head  
Young bloods, who often in the House had heard  
Ancestral voices prophesying peace.

<sup>1</sup> "W.A.A.C."—stands for 'We are all cousins.' Probably because relationship was the only ground for permission to visit these 'Amazons.'—*Bunkum*.

<sup>2</sup> Various uses have been assigned to these birds, which are known to have been in some way connected with the Navy. For another instance of this connection between birds and the Navy, see note on 'pigeons.'—*Muddle*.

<sup>3</sup> "The origin of this expression is obscure. The dictator to whom it refers was expressly stated in the Assembly to have had no connections with any newspapers. Cp. 'Mills of God.'—*Pfunk*.

<sup>4</sup> "This was probably the last occasion on which *men* were used for fighting purposes."—*Pfunk*.

And last of all, the great Leviathans,<sup>1</sup>  
Both male and female, and their progeny  
The monstrous parents of a monstrous brood,  
Crawled slowly two by two while overhead  
Aerial navies ploughed the vast inane.  
So passed the splendid pageant, and from far  
A mighty multitude of captives watched  
And didn't like the look of things a bit.

<sup>1</sup> "Often called 'Tanks,' the name given to these barbarous monsters by their indignant inventor on being told by the Inventions Board that his idea would not hold water."—*Piffle*.

JEANETTE

BY PRIVATE WORDSWORTH

SWEET child ! when I behold thy face  
Refulgent in this murky place,  
And head bedecked with rustic fillet,  
I cannot curse my doubtful billet.  
For Providence at G.H.Q.  
Hath evidently heard of you  
And from the Quartermaster's Store  
Hath issued Qualities galore—  
An innocence that never fears  
To stretch a hand for souvenirs,  
And maiden-coyness making thee  
Too shy to give them back to me,  
A mien that every doubt dispels,  
A total disregard for smells,  
A shrewd dislike for Sergeant Higgs,  
A partiality for pigs,  
And many pretty courtesies  
And household virtues such as these  
Combine my simple heart to please.

The unexpièd portion of  
My rations thou didst once remove ;  
Yet shall I blame thee, or condemn  
Thy deed before the A.P.M. ?  
Ah ! No. My child, how couldst thou guess  
The nature of that lurid mess  
Or tell what dangers lurk within  
The compass of that mystic tin ?  
Nay, rather let me think thy mind  
So gentle, generous, and kind,  
Perceiving that the A.S.C.  
Were shamefully neglecting me,  
By way of protest sought to ban  
A meat unworthy of the man.  
And therefore in that fond belief  
Jeanette, I cannot call thee thief  
Though thou didst pinch my bully beef.

Thou scarcely seem'st of mortal birth,  
Yet dost thou not disdain the earth  
Which lingers on thy nose and cheeks  
And of thy homely nature speaks.  
Ah ! happy could I be to sit  
A while with thee and do my bit  
About the snug paternal midden  
(While others to the line are bidden).

But such things may not be, my child ;  
The sergeant's tongue is rude and wild  
And I must put my helmet on  
And to the battlefield begone.  
But ere I go—the gentle maid  
Hath called her friends from field and glade  
And all at once the little dcars  
Together mingle mud with cheers.  
And ah ! my eyes are filled with . . . tears.

## MINNIE

BY PRIVATE ROBERT BURNS

IN wee bit housie Minnie lives  
Not half a mile awa',  
And yet I daurna cross the glaur  
That lies atween us twa.

Ah ! gin I could but smoor her wrath  
There's nought I wad na gie,  
Fu' mony a time because of her  
I've sworn I'm like to dee.

Her ears are daf to a' ma aiths,  
Her head is unco high ;  
I canna' eat, I canna' sleep,  
Sae fu' o' care am I.

Her voice is in the westlin' winds,  
And gin she passes by  
Wi' hope and fear I wait for her,  
Yet maun I stand abeigh.

But noo wi' lightsome heart I go  
Frae morn till even fa',  
For Minnie is a Mortar an'  
Last night she gaed awa'.

## SERGEANT SWINBURNE GETS SHELL SHOCK

IN the silvery light of the Gotha-bewildering Goddess,  
'Midst a murmur of mule-driven waggons that move in the mud,  
With a wail of a woman who weeps for an ill-fitting bodice  
It hurtles through Heaven and drops by my dug-out—a dud !  
But further and faster than fuse fliehth fear and more blinding  
than blood.

Untouched—all the terrors of Tartarus gather about me,  
And grin as they sit on my shoulders and whisper "napoo,"  
With horror-struck eyes on the ground as they follow and flout  
me

I know I am wading through oceans and oceans of stew  
Till I stagger and stumble at length to my billet and find its  
the Zoo !

I sink in the straw with a sigh—though it's sombre and smelly,  
An elephant asks for my pay book with pushing aplomb,  
An old hippopotamus gloomily sounds the reveille,  
At breakfast a porcupine cheerily proffers a bomb,  
And I find I am detailed for digging fatigue in the swamps of  
the Somme.

My leave is allotted at last ! Yet I know I'll be late for  
The train which will certainly stop when it reaches a hill,  
And ever and ever there beats on my brain as I wait for  
The Adjutant signing my pass with a post-office quill,  
The thunder of ten Sergeant-Majors defaming defaulters at drill !

But slowly the dawn breaks above me in crimson and argent  
And all the small beasts of the waking world hover and hum,  
I hear at my elbow the voice of the Orderly Sergeant  
Proclaiming the moment to issue the ration of rum  
And I stoop and I gaze at the jar lying void at my feet, and  
am dumb !

# RANK AND FILE, OR REVOLUTION À LA MODE

BY PRIVATE W. S. GILBERT

## *DRAMATIS PERSONAE*

MADAME CLICQUOT	.	.	.	<i>A Widow.</i>
HER THREE DAUGHTERS.				
COLONEL SMITH	.	.	.	<i>Commanding 1st Blankshires.</i>
CAPTAIN BROWN AND CAPTAIN JONES				<i>Of 1st Blankshires.</i>
CORPORAL DUKE OF MANDALAY	.	.	.	<i>Mess Cook.</i>
PRIVATE SIR HENRY VEREY-SMART	.	.	.	<i>Mess Waiter.</i>
PRIVATE LORD TOORAL OF LOO	.	.	.	<i>Orderlies.</i>
PRIVATE BOOKER, D.D.	.	.	.	

## SCENE I. *Officers' Mess in Rest Billets.*

*Chorus (Officers at dinner).*

We're highly respectable heroes, let us dance and let us sing,

With a hey for Divisional Reserve,

In a manner that is suitable to soldiers of the King,

With a hey for Divisional Reserve.

We've hung our armour up the while no foeman can attack us,

For those who follow Mars may spend their holidays with Bacchus.

Sir Francis Lloyd is far away and Clynes he cannot track us,

With a hey for Divisional Reserve.

Fal lal la.

*Song.*

COLONEL. What wonderful changes the War has wrought !

Who'd ever have thought,

ALL. Who'd ever have thought,

COLONEL. That we should be sipping our glass of port

As officers bold and free,

With the owner of last year's Derby winner

To serve us at dinner,

ALL. To serve us at dinner,

COLONEL. A partner in Coutts to clean our boots,

And a Duke to boil us our tea,

ALL. our tea,

COLONEL. And a Duke to boil us our tea.

COLONEL. Yes, yes. Our responsibilities are great. Are we not officers in the Smartest Regiment in France ?

ALL. We are.

COLONEL. And shall we by even so much as a hair's breadth deviate from the paths of duty and tradition ?

ALL. Never !

COLONEL. That's right. Have you all duly overdrawn at Cox's to an extent worthy of the Regiment's reputation ?

ALL. We have.

COLONEL. Have you all contracted alliances with amiable but otherwise undistinguished ladies of the stage ?

ALL. We have.

COLONEL. My boys, I am proud of you. But hush, here come the ladies.

CAPT. BROWN. A mild flirtation, Colonel?

COLONEL. A little gallantry is quite in order,

It is our duty.

ALL. It is our duty.

*Enter MADAME CLICQUOT and DAUGHTERS.*

*Recitation.*

COLONEL. Madame, we greet you. Welcome to our table.

MADAME. Monsieur le Colonel est trop aimable.

CAPT. JONES. Pray, ladies, join us in a stately dance.

LADIES. Messieurs les officiers, you honour France.

COLONEL. Tell Corporal the Duke of Mandalay

To send the orderlies to clear away.

*Exit CAPTAIN BROWN.*

*Returns with SMART, LORD TOORAL, and BOOKER.*

*Trio : SMART, TOORAL, and BOOKER.*

It's now a weary while

Since we left our social strata

To join the rank and file

As orderlies and waiter.

It really isn't fun,

But we've got this consolation

Of Duty nobly done

And our country's commendation.

*(They clear away—exchanging winks with ladies  
behind backs of officers.)*

*Pavane: LADIES and OFFICERS.*

OFFICERS. Let us tread a stately measure  
At these noble ladies' side.

LADIES. Make the most of fleeting leisure  
In a manner dignified.

OFFICERS. Fervidly we praise your beauty,

LADIES. That is very nice of you ;

OFFICERS. For it clearly is our duty,

LADIES. And it clearly is our due.

MME C. And now, Messieurs les officiers—we bid you good night.

COL. & OFFICERS. Good night all.

(*They bow and retire out of opposite doors,  
turning out lights.  
Short interval.*)

*Enter DAUGHTERS at one door and ORDERLIES at the other.*

*Sextette.*

Hush, hush, hark !  
While the household lies asleep,  
Hither silently we creep.  
Stolen pleasures taste the sweetest,  
Stolen moments pass the fleetest,  
Cupid's blind and loves the dark,  
Hush, hush, hark !

(*They dance.*)

*Enter MADAME CLICQUOT, turning on lights.*

MADAME. Now what is this, now what is this? Whatever does it mean?

Explain at once the reason for this most disgraceful scene.

TOORAL. We're only young aristocrats, but oh! our hearts are true,

And in our veins the blood runs warm; although that blood is blue.

MADAME. Ah! so you've dared with words of love my daughters to address,

Two orderlies—oh! villains—and a waiter in the mess!

TOORAL. 'Tis true we've but our learning, cash, and pedigree to offer,

But love is bold, and love is rare, and so our love we proffer.

MADAME. Ah! no, this cannot be. At rank a Clicquot well may smile,

But never can a Clicquot go and wed the rank and file.

*Enter CORPORAL DUKE OF MANDALAY.*

DUKE. Ah! Madame, hear me ere you send them away.

MADAME (*aside*) He is very beautiful.

DUKE. For seven long and weary days I have suffered my love in silence.

MADAME. (*aside*) Be still, thou flutterer!

DUKE. But now I must speak. Madame, I love you, I worship you, I adore you. It is true I'm but a Corporal,

and have nothing but six family seats and a house  
in Berkeley Square to offer you, but my devotion is  
such that I dare to ask you to marry me.

MADAME. Alas! It cannot be. I am la Veuve Clicquot.  
You are a Corporal. We must not see each other  
again. But I shall never love anyone else.

DUKE Nor I.

*Duet.*

MADAME. I'll live an ancient relic at  
My home devoting delicate  
Attentions to a smelly cat  
Beside the parlour fire,  
Or take a room at Claridge's  
And watch the passing carriages  
And scan the list of marriages  
With ill-concealèd ire.

DUKE. I'll live an ancient mystery  
With gouty feet and blistery,  
Recalling ancient history  
With cronies at the club,  
And hoarier and hoarier  
I'll grow—*sic transit gloria*—  
And wander round Victoria  
Or ponder in a pub.

MADAME. I'll turn to local charity  
And emphasize disparity  
With never-failing clarity  
By visiting the poor.

DUKE. And when the bags I've dwelt in—hem!—  
No longer need a belt in 'em  
I'll have to go to Cheltenham  
And take the beastly cure.

MADAME. And so I'll live forlorn—fully  
Determined to look scornfully  
On all the world, but mournfully  
Bemoan my single state.

DUKE. And long ere in the tomb I lie  
The Athenæum gloomily  
Shall listen to me rheumily  
Discoursing of my fate.

*Enter BOLSHEVIST. Recit.*

Now you have reached the climax of the scene,  
Behold in me the God from the machine.

*Song.*

I'm a Bolshevik bold and free  
And I worship Democracy,  
Since all men are equal—a natural sequel—  
I'm now at the top of the tree.  
Through perilous seas and drear  
The vessel of state I steer ;

For I simply don't heed them, but call upon Freedom  
And rule by the sanction of fear.  
I trust that I make myself clear ?

ALL. Oh ! yes, you're remarkably clear.

BOLSHEVIST. Then banish all sorrow and care !  
Away with content and restraint !  
If you're tired of things as they are,  
Just try making things as they ain't.

ALL. Then banish, etc.

BOLSHEVIST. Though political troubles are hot  
They never disturb me a jot,  
With language discursive and methods inversive  
I easily settle the lot.  
The problem of distant Ukraine  
Will never perplex us again.  
I simply attack it by means democratic  
And blow them all up with methaine.  
I trust that I make myself plain ?

ALL. Oh ! yes, you're remarkably plain.

CHORUS. Then banish, etc.

BOLSHEVIST. Now—what are your troubles, brothers,  
That I may solve them for you ?

DUKE. We love these ladies, but may not marry them  
Because we are not officers.

BOLSHEVIST. Then why not revolt?

DUKE. But I've got a pedigree that dates back to the flood.

BOLSHEVIST. All men are equal. The accidents of birth should  
be no bar to advancement in the state. Revolt!

DUKE. There's something in that.

PTE. SIR HENRY VEREY-SMART. But I'm a millionaire.

BOLSHEVIST. One man is as good as another. The accident of  
wealth should be no handicap to the legitimate  
expansion of talent. Revolt!

SIR HENRY. Very true.

PTE. BOOKER, But I'm a doctor of divinity in ten Universities.

D.D.

BOLSHEVIST. Every man has his rights. The accident of brains  
should not deny you the opportunity of claiming  
them. Revolt!

PTE BOOKER, I agree.

D.D.

DUKE. We'll banish all sorrow and care,

TOORAL. Away with content and restraint.

SMART. We're tired of things as they are,

BOOKER. So we'll try making things as they ain't.

*(They seize Sam Browne belts of officers hanging  
up on wall, and put them on.)*

*Enter COLONEL and OFFICERS.*

COLONEL. Now what is this, now what is this? Whatever can it mean?

Explain at once the reason for this most disgraceful scene!

DUKE. We've made a revolution, Colonel, while you've been away,

And we are now your officers. You're privates from to-day.

COLONEL. Good gracious me! Well, fortune ever was a fickle jade.

There's nothing left for us to do but notify Brigade.

*Exit OFFICERS.*

*Finale.*

The deed is done, and every one  
Can marry one another.

For bold Sir Henry Verey-Smart can claim the lady of his heart,  
And Mandalay the mother.

The deed is done. A brighter sun  
Shall dawn on happier days.

The doctor of divinity can marry his affinity,  
And Tooral wed Thérèse.

*OTHER POEMS*



## CHLOE

### THE AWFUL EFFECT OF FOUR YEARS' ACTIVE SERVICE ON A POET

ACCEPT this indent—Sweet—from me—  
That all the blessings thou hast earned  
The Gods may give; (addressed to thee,  
Repeated unto all concerned).

Soft as the violet new-unfurled,  
Thine eyes with gentle kindness speak,  
And all the roses of the world  
Report for duty on thy cheek.

At eventime, when lights are low,  
I dream I press, with lips that burn,  
A thousand kisses on thy brow  
(For information, and return).

And in the morning ere I rise  
The Image of my Best Beloved  
That floats before my waking eyes  
Is duly noted and approved.

These lines which tell in accents true  
The hopes that warm, the fears that freeze,  
My love-lorn heart, are passed to you  
For necessary action, please.

## ODE TO SPRING

BY A CONSCRIPTED POET

O Goddess ! ever young and ever fair,  
Who from long slumber wakest at the note  
Of lark and linnet and the trumpet call  
Of hyacinths, when I behold thine hair  
Crownèd with flowers, and thy gleaming throat  
White as the blooms of cherry-trees that fall

To make a path for thee  
Whereon thy faery feet scarce leave a track,  
When everywhere thy festival I see—  
I know it is the moment to attack !

And that secluded vale, the haunt of bees,  
Which nestles—bright with beaded gossamer—  
Deep-hidden 'neath the shadow of the hill  
And girt about with dark and aged trees  
Whose leaves the boisterous zephyrs seldom stir,—  
That little dell, so quiet and so still

Whereon thou lovest to lie

Unwatched by any save the patient cows  
Who stand and gaze into eternity—  
What cover for a battery of “hows.”!

And when upon some lofty summit, deep  
In fragrant clover I recline at ease  
And gaze across the distant valleys, dark  
With foliage and the shades of even, and steep  
My weary senses in the gentle breeze  
All odorous of thee, while the gay lark.

Singing of life and hope,  
Hangs in the dome of heaven—what thoughts inspire  
My fond and frenzied soul, O Spring?—“This slope  
Is convex and affords no field of fire!”

## ODE TO SIMPLICITY

BY A RATIONED POET

THE rich let crowded Thames entice,  
Expensive cots let others share,  
And bungalows—me shall suffice  
A house in Berkeley Square.

Let those whom fond ambitions haunt  
And emulation—if they please—  
Before admiring noses vaunt  
The smell of Cheddar cheese.

The rabbit let them proudly munch,  
Exotic butter show with glee,  
While legs of mutton grace their lunch  
And damson jam their tea.

My table nothing strange or rare  
Shall load, the uninvited guest  
Partaking of my simple fare  
Shall leave me unimpressed.

## ODE TO SIMPLICITY

I'll not attempt the gander rich  
With apple sauce—for I can buy  
In any shop the pâté which  
His liver shall supply.

Me bearded oysters shall content  
And caviare and woodcock plain  
And grouse, by my dear brother sent,  
Washed down by dry **champagne**.

## A LULLABY

BY A POET ON SENTRY DUTY

Oh ! little dud, sing lullaby !  
With what fond care oppressed  
I keep my vigil at thy side,  
Lest aught disturb thy rest,  
While on thy face from time to time  
I turn an anxious eye !  
Oh ! little dud, sing lullaby,  
Sing lulla-lullaby !

So still thou sleepest, little dud,  
Throughout the breathless night,  
Almost I feel that thou art dead,  
But when I think how light  
A touch would wake thee into life,  
Most earnestly I cry,  
Oh ! little dud, sing lullaby,  
Sing lulla-lullaby !

Then slumber on ! The world is rude.  
In slumber dost thou keep

## A LULLABY

Thine innocence, sweet dud ! But, oh !  
How thin a veil is sleep !  
Within thy form, so round and smooth,  
What lurking passions lie !—  
Oh ! little dud, sing lullaby,  
Sing lulla-lulla !

## IN LACRIMAS

BY A GASSED POET

“ WHY dost thou stand and weep, pale youth,  
Beside the Menin Gate,  
The afternoon parade is done  
And there’s no evening hate ?

“ Is it that thou dost contemplate  
Youth’s doleful destiny,  
Or that some nearer grief hath touched  
The fountains of thine eye ? ”

“ I met a military man,  
As in the dusk I stood,  
Three stripes upon his arm he bore,  
His mien was wild and rude.

“ He pinned me with a steely glance  
As sternly he began,  
‘ From 6 p.m. to 7 a.m.  
You’ll be on guard, young man.’

“ He passed, and while I stood transfixed,  
As by a magic spell,  
Soft sighing through the stilly air  
There came the soundless shell.

“ There came the soundless shell and spread  
About my lonely feet,  
A soothing perfume as of pears,  
And languorously sweet.

“ It breathed of homely orchards—warm  
Beneath the Sussex sun—  
It filled the air—and I forgot  
To put my goggles on.

“ And that is why I stand and weep,  
Beside the Menin Gate,  
Though afternoon parade is done  
And there’s no evening hate.”

## STINKING FARM

BY A PICARDY POET OF THE FUTURE

“Many of the names now given to places in the battle-area will survive the war.”—*Daily Paper*.

This may be rather embarrassing for the Picardy Poet of the future.

THE leafy glades of “Maida Vale”  
Are bright with bursting may,  
And daffodils and violets pale  
Bedew “The Milky Way”;  
There’s perfect peace in “Regent Street,”  
In “Holborn” rural charm,  
But nowhere smells the Spring so sweet  
As down by “Stinking Farm.”

And as I rode through “Dead Cow Lane,”  
Beneath the dungeon keep  
Of “Wobbly House” that tops the plain,  
I saw a maiden peep;  
Her glance was like the dappled doe’s;  
She blushed with shy alarm,  
As pink as any Rambler-rose  
That climbs at “Stinking Farm.”

O maiden, if it be my fate  
To win so great a boon,  
At " Hell-fire Corner " I will wait  
Beneath the silver moon ;  
I'll swear no maid but thee I know  
As softly arm-in-arm  
Along the " Blarney Road " we go  
That leads to " Stinking Farm."

And we will wander, O my Queen,  
By many a mossy nook,  
Where limpid waters flow between  
The banks of " Beery Brook " ;  
In " Purgatory " we will roam  
Where blow the breezes warm,  
If thou wilt come and make thy home,  
O sweet, at " Stinking Farm."

## ELEGY ON THE DEATH OF BINGO, OUR TRENCH DOG

BY THE TRENCH BARD

WEEP, weep, ye dwellers in the delvèd earth,  
Ah, weep, ye watchers by the dismal shore  
Of No Man's Land, for Bingo is no more ;  
He is no more, and well ye knew his worth,  
For whom on bully-beefless days were kept  
Rare bones by each according to his means,  
And, while the Quartermaster-Sergeant slept,  
The elusive pork was rescued from the beans.  
He is no more, and, impudently brave,  
The loathly rats sit grinning on his grave.

Him mourn the grimy cooks and bombers ten,  
The sentinels in lonely posts forlorn,  
The fierce patrols with hands and tunics torn,  
The furtive band of sanitary men.  
The murmuring sound of grief along the length  
Of traversed trench the startled Hun could hear ;  
The Captain, as he struck him off the strength,  
Let fall a sad and solitary tear ;

'Tis even said a batman passing by  
Had seen the Sergeant-Major wipe his eye.

The fearful fervour of the feline chase  
He never knew, poor dog, he never knew ;  
Content with optimistic zeal to woo  
Reluctant rodents in this murky place,  
He never played with children on clean grass,  
Nor dozed at ease beside the glowing embers,  
Nor watched with hopeful eye the tea-cakes pass,  
Nor smelt the heather-smell of Scotch Septembers,  
For he was born amid a world at war  
Although unrecking what we struggled for

Yet who shall say that Bingo was unblest  
Though all his Sprattless life was passed beneath  
The roar of mortars and the whistling breath  
Of grim, nocturnal heavies going west ?  
Unmoved he heard the evening hymn of hate,  
Unmoved would gaze into his master's eyes.  
For all the sorrows men for men create  
In search of happiness wise dogs despise,  
Finding ecstatic joy in every rag  
And every smile of friendship worth a wag.

## MUD

WE vowed our hearts to France—oh ! loathly Mud—  
When first we donned our armour for the fray—  
But not—oh ! not our legs ! Hero and dud  
Thou dost engulf alike in common clay !  
Where is the pomp and circumstance of war,  
The glamour of the men who fought at Crecy ?  
Were ever noble warriors before  
Doomed to appear so miserably messy ?

To fade into a shell hole in the night  
Is not my own idea of war at all !  
Abominable Mud ! If I've to fight  
At least then let me like a soldier fall !  
Didst thou embrace the equine tank at Troy ?  
Or clog the heavies of the heroic Greeks ?  
Or daub our cavaliers at Fontenoy ?  
Or stain the radiance of Napoleon's breeks ?

And if at Camelot upon parade  
Thou hadst sucked up the legs of Launcelot

Or splashed the nose of pure Sir Galahad,  
Would Arthur of the blameless tongue have not  
Ventured a little oath at last ? And would  
Stout Cortez, had he gazed upon his men  
Sprouting like mushrooms in the mud, have stood  
SILENT upon a peak in Darien ?

## THE SACRED DOCUMENTS

MAJOR Augustus Edward Grace  
Was D.A.A.G. Corps,  
And kept the Sacred Documents  
In pigeon-holes galore,  
And knew that on his shoulders lay  
The burden of the war.

No officer on all the Staff  
Was diligent as he ;  
'Twas but a little fault he had  
That caused the tragedy.  
A trifle absent-minded Grace  
Was sometimes apt to be.

One morning—I remember well,  
The day was wild and wet—  
(The horror of that dreadful time !  
It makes me tremble yet)—  
With “ A oblique stroke four five two ”  
Grace lit his cigarette !

## THE SACRED DOCUMENTS

That evening from the Army came  
A note for Major Grace ;  
" Ref. A oblique stroke four five two,  
Line three, delete ' his face.' "  
But " A oblique stroke four five two "  
Had vanished into space !

We sought the Sacred Document  
Through half a hundred files,  
At first with natural confidence  
And deprecating smiles,  
Like cats that for the first time tread  
The dim nocturnal tiles.

But when we sought, and sought in vain,  
Slowly a nameless dread  
Began to seize us, and the hairs  
Stood up upon each head  
As in each other's startled eyes  
The dreadful thought we read.

The Sacred Document was lost !  
We heard the furies mock,  
The D.A.A. and Q.M.G.  
In secret sold his stock.  
And when the Corps Commander knew  
He fainted with the shock.

That night, when in our beds we lay,  
    We saw—as in a trance—  
A Britain humbled to the dust,  
    A dominated France.  
But ah ! for human vanity  
    Beneath the light of chance !

A bomb was dropped at dawn and left  
    The offices a wreck,  
And of the Sacred Documents  
    Was found no single speck.  
And yet—and Yet—and YET the war  
    Went on without a check !

## JOSEPH ARTHUR BROWN

THE name of Joseph Arthur Brown  
By some profound mischance  
Was sent right through to G.H.Q.  
As " Killed in action, France."

So when poor Joseph went to draw  
His bully beef and bread,  
" You're not upon the strength, my son,"  
The Quartermaster said.

To Sergeant Baird then Joseph went  
And told his fortune harsh,  
But Sergeant Baird on Joseph glared  
And pulled his great moustache.

" Have I not taught you discipline  
For three long years? " said he,  
" If you are down as dead, young Brown,  
Why, dead you'll have to be."

In vain the journal of his town  
Was bought by friends to please,  
That he might see his eulogy  
In local Journalese;

For to the Captain Joseph went  
With teardrops in his eye,  
And said, "I know I'm dead, but oh !  
I am so young to die !"

And at the Captain's feet he knelt  
And clasped him by the knee.  
But on his face no sign of grace  
Poor Joseph Brown could see.

"Then to *John Bull* I'll write," he cried,  
"Since supplication fails."  
"But you are dead," the Captain said,  
"And dead men tell no tales."

So reckless passion seized upon  
The luckless Private Brown,  
And with two blows upon the nose  
He knocked the Captain down.

'Mid cries of horror and surprise  
They led the lad away.  
Before the Colonel grim and stern  
They brought him up next day.

But when the Colonel sentenced Brown  
(R.62703)  
With thund'rous voice and language choice  
To thirty days F.P.,

Across the trembling prisoner's face  
A smile was seen to spread,  
As he replied, with conscious pride,  
" You can't, 'cos I am dead."

## THE CALL OF THE WILD

OH ! for the wild, wild life I led  
Before I settled down  
To the humdrum rôle  
Of a military mole  
In a subterranean town !

Oft when on night patrol I go  
By the lights of the Bosch beguiled,  
('Tis an exercise  
Which is weak but wise)  
There comes the call of the Wild.

The call of the raging roaring streets,  
The call of the pavements bright,  
The call of the gay  
Who walk by day  
And the sad who walk by night.

## THE CALL OF THE WILD

The call of the thrill of a Christie sale  
And the fight for a bargain rare :  
    Of the red-letter days  
    When you back both ways  
The horse that wins by a hair.

The call of adventures strange and grim  
And of dangers bravely run  
    'Mid the mystical lairs  
    Of bulls and bears  
In the depths of E.C.I.

The call of skirmishes fought in June  
With the mothers of daughters fair,  
    Of the fatal glance  
    At the last big dance  
And the kill in Eaton Square.

But the vision fades, and the joys of Youth  
Are done, and I've settled down  
    To the humdrum rôle  
    Of a military mole  
In a subterranean town.

## THE TURN OF THE TIDE

BY THE KAISER

WHEN King Canute sat by the sea  
To stop the waves—but shirked it,  
He can't have known—it seems to me—  
The tide would turn at half-past three  
Or else he might have worked it.

And so it was that old Canute,  
His kingly honour pawning,  
Allowed the waves to reach his boot  
And then proclaimed in accents cute  
He meant it as a warning.

But kings should fly their flag with pride,  
Nor ever deign to strike it.  
And if they watch the turn of tide  
They'll still be on the winning side  
Although they may not like it.

## THE TURN OF THE TIDE

So now for Socialists I yearn  
Which really is a rum thing.  
With democratic zeal I burn  
(Until the tide again shall turn  
And then I'll give them something !)

## FRAGMENT

A HASTY word, a foolish jest ill-spoken,  
An angry glance and all our dreams are broken,  
A jealous thought—the wind that passes by  
Blows them away and leaves us but—a sigh !

## HAPPINESS

WHAT art thou, happiness ? A golden cup  
Of drowsy hemlock or a scarlet bloom  
That at a mortal's touch withereth up ?  
A distant planet shining in the gloom ?

Thou art a Moloch that dost feed on flame  
And human hearts. Ten thousand worship thee  
And sacrifice their children in thy name,  
But thou art silent as eternity.

Thou art a fountain set upon a height  
Whose waters glitter in the noonday heat ;  
Towards thee, parchèd thousands wildly fight  
Their way—to find thy taste is bitter sweet !

Then let us laugh, since life is but a jest,  
And dance—the sport of every wind that blows,  
We live to please the mighty satirist.  
Is death itself a joke ? Who knows—who knows ?

## ODE

BEHOLD ! A solitary figure stands  
Silent, upon a peak in Picardy,  
Gazing across the devastated lands  
And flaming farms of France. Who—who is he  
Who moves not, though about him great shells moan  
And shriller bullets whistle through his hair,  
Making a parting where no parting was ?  
Frowning and still he stands, and all alone,  
No sounds of warring legions anywhere  
(Save the aforesaid bullets). Barren grass  
And empty miles of mud and mystery  
Lie dumb beneath his gaze. But suddenly  
Out of a crumphole creeps a cautious cat,  
Of doubtful temper true, and far from fat.  
But what cares he—ah ! what indeed cares he ?  
Smiling he pats her as she ambles past.  
B——ch T——s finds his paragraph at last !

## ODE

WITH COMPLIMENTS TO CAPTAIN BRUCE BAIRNSFATHER

IMMORTAL twain !  
Castor and Pollux of our firmament !  
Would I could hymn you in a worthier strain,  
On whom are bent  
The eyes of all the Anglo-Saxon race  
In this great time of stress.  
Mirrored upon whose face great happiness we guess,  
Upon whose lips an Empire breathless hangs.  
Who could replace you—who ?  
Should fortune strike you down with fateful fangs  
Hissing the loud “ Napoo ! ”  
No ribbons mar the bashful monotone  
Of your proud breasts, nor any tabs of red.  
You organize no patriotic loan,  
Neither control our bread.  
Yet Providence—remembering family ties—  
Could plan no greater hurt  
Than bear you off—nor win a greater prize,  
Oh, “ Alf ” and “ Bert.”

## PHILOSOPHY FOR ADVERTISERS

### I

“ Beauty is Truth, Truth Beauty,” sings the poet,  
“ And that is all we need to know.” We know it.  
Keep beautiful and lovers true you’ll find ;  
Use Poggle’s Powder and deceive mankind.

### 2

“ How low, how little are the proud,  
How indigent the great,”  
Whom chronic lack of cash has bowed  
Down from their high estate.  
But let Fitzclarence bring content,  
For he can ease their moan  
By lending cash at five per cent.  
On note of hand alone.

### 3

“ Ever let the fancy roam ;  
Pleasure never is at home.”  
Do not sit and mope with Alice ;  
Come and see our Picture Palace.

## 4

Doubt not, O Man, the hand of Providence  
Because thou art not able to explain  
The evils of the world, nor wonder whence  
We draw our sad inheritance of pain.  
Consider rather how the gods provide  
A natural relief for every ill ;  
The nettle and the dock-leaf side by side,  
The Christmas dinner and the Pinkney Pill.

## 5

In opposites attraction lies, 'tis said ;  
Since he is dark a blonde he'll want to wed ;  
Then try Nobell's Peroxide for thine hair ;  
For ever will he love and thou be fair.

## 6

'Tis not for youthful bloods to quaff  
Our " very special " port,  
A brand that makes the butler laugh  
And connoisseurs to snort.  
But for your wealthy aunt 'twill make  
A drink to suit her age ;  
Minds innocent and quiet take  
It for a " Hermitage."

## 7

Achievement's never equal to  
The pleasure of pursuit ;  
We long, because it's something new,  
To taste exotic fruit:  
A subtle joy in life and art  
From mysteries we gain ;  
We worship with a joyful heart  
That which we can't explain.

Enough. Where ignorance is bliss  
'Tis folly to be wise ;  
So come and try our sausages,  
Explore our rabbit-pies.

## TO A SMALL BOY

BANG, bang the drum, my son, and blow  
The trumpet loud and shrill,  
And wave thy tiny sword, although  
There's no one there to kill.

Stand up thy soldiers one by one  
Along the chequered hall,  
And shoot them with thy tiny gun,  
And laugh to see them fall.

To thee the war is but a name,  
It's horrors unrevealed ;  
But father plays the self-same game,  
Though in a grimmer field.

He plays at soldiers far away,  
Although it's not for fun,  
That in the future thou mayst play  
At soldiers . . . with thy son.

## “ MUFTI ”

WHEN I put on my “ civies,”  
How happy I shall be  
To hear no more the cannon roar,  
And know that I am free !

To crease putteeless trousers,  
And sport the spotless spat,  
And grow long hair without a care  
Beneath a bowler hat !

To wander past the Horse Guards,  
And smile a smile benign,  
And say, “ I pay for them, and they  
Are really rather fine.”

To spend tattooless evenings  
Within the friendly pubs ;  
To pass with hands in pockets bands  
Of unsaluted subs.

And yet perhaps we'll sometimes  
Remember now and then  
Those other days and other ways  
When we were soldiers.

## “ MUFTI ”

And some of us may ponder  
On things we learned out there.  
Our country's call still sounds for all,  
If only we will hear.

We citizens who soldiered  
When foes were at the gate,  
If so we will, may soldier still,  
And still may serve the State.

## ENVOIE

How shall I say good-bye to you, wonderful, terrible days,  
If I should live to live and leave 'neath an alien soil  
You, my men, who taught me to walk with a smile in the ways  
Of the valley of shadows, taught me to know you and love you,  
and toil  
Glad in the glory of fellowship, happy in misery, strong  
In the strength that laughs at its weakness, laughs at its  
sorrows and fears,  
Facing the world that was not too kind with a jest and a song ?  
What can the world hold afterwards worthy of laughter or tears ?

PRINTED BY  
HAZELL, WATSON AND VINEY, LTD.,  
LONDON AND AYLESBURY,  
ENGLAND.



PR6007  
E697p6  
2.2.

DATE DUE

**GAYLORD**

PRINTED IN U.S.A.

UNIVERSITY OF CA., RIVERSIDE LIBRAR



3 1210 01187 1207

UC SOUTHERN REGIONAL LIBRARY FACILITY



AA 000 591 476 7

